

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /052 W

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R 051831Z EAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9601

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PAN AMERICAN CAUGHT VIOLATING

UK CHARTER RULES

1. CHECK BY AAA INSPECTORS ON MARCH 2 OF PASSENGERS
ARRIVING ON PANAM CHARTER FLIGHT FROM NEW YORK REVEALED
THAT CARRIER VIOLATED UK CHARTER RULES. FLIGHT IN
QUESTION HAD BEEN FILED AS OTC IN US AND AS ITC IN UK.
TO SATISFY PRICING CONDITION FOR ITCS, PANAM HAD
INDICATED TO DEPARTMENT OF TRADE THAT PRICE TO PASSENGER
WOULD BE NO LESS THAN \$443. PASSENGERS CHECKED ON
ARRIVAL ALL STATED THEY HAD PAID \$379 WHICH WAS
APPARENTLY PRICE SPECIFIED IN CARRIER'S US FILING. DOT
ACCUSED CARRIER OF DELIBERATELY INTENDING TO DECEIVE /UK
AUTHORITIES. PANAM COULD OFFER NO CREDIBLE EXPLANATION.

2. MAXIMUM FINE DOT CAN IMPOSE FOR CHARTER INFRACTION
IS ENGLISH POUNDS 400 AND APPARENTLY ONLY OTHER SANCTION
AVAILABLE IS SUSPENSION OF OPERATING PERMIT SO, TO
PUNISH CARRIER FOR VIOLATION, DOT HAS ORDERED PANAM
EITHER TO BOOK PASSENGERS' RETURN TRIP ON BRITISH AIR-
WAYS SCHEDULED SERVICES OR TO CHARTER A BRITISH AIRCRAFT
FOR THEM ON PLANNED DEPARTURE DATE (MARCH 9), WE UNDER-
STAND PANAM HAS FOLLOWED LATTER COURSE AND CHARTERED
DAN-AIR AIRCRAFT FOR RETURN FLIGHT.

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3. COMMENT: THIS FLAGRANT AND APPARENTLY WILLFUL VIOLA-

TION OF UK CHARTER RULES COMES AT A PARTICULARLY
UNFORTUNATE TIME IN VIEW OF ADVANCED STAGE REACHED IN
US-UK CHARTER NEGOTIATIONS. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT UK DEL
WILL TRY TO UQE INCIDENT TO ITS ADVANTAGE WHEN TALKS RE-
SUME MARCH 19, PERHAPS BY CALLINQ FOR EVEN TIGHTER AND
MORE CUMBERSOME OPERATING AND REPORTING CONDITIONS FOR
CHARTER FLIGHT. WE ALSO SUSPECT PANAM MAY SEE MORE THAN
NORMAL AMOUNT OF CAA INSPECTIONS OF ITS CHARTER OPERA-
TIONS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. ARMSTRONG

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AVIATION REGULATIONS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON03531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760085-0978
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603111/aaaagglu.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970923
Subject: CIVAIR - PAN AMERICAN CAUGHT VIOLATING UK CHARTER RULES
TAGS: EAIR, UK, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006